

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 003432
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 ACDA-12 DOE-11 SOE-02
PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
EB-08 NRC-05 DODE-00 SP-02 /108 R

DRAFTED BY OES/NET/EIC:DHOYLE
APPROVED BY OES/NET:LNOSENZO
S/AS - B KELLEY
T/D - D WELCH
ACDA - F BUHOLTZ
DOE H BENGELSDORF
PM/NPP - G OPLINGER
EUR/NE - R WOODS
EUR/NE - C SCHALLER

-----086826 061814Z /46

P 061742Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 003432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:TECH, ENGR

SUBJECT: SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL DISPOSITION

REFS: A. COPENHAGEN 6888; B. STOCKHOLM A-128

1. THE SWEDISH NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY COMPANY (SKBF)
RECENTLY HAS SUBMITTED A STUDY OF A LARGE, CENTRAL SPENT
FUEL STORAGE FACILITY IN SWEDEN TO RELEVANT SWEDISH AUTHORI-
TIES FOR REVIEW; A FORMAL APPLICATION IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE
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TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION THIS MONTH. A
DECISION MIGHT BE EXPECTED BY NOVEMBER 1978, IN WHICH CASE
THE FACILITY WOULD BE IN OPERATION BY DECEMBER 1983.

2. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SKBF WOULD BE WILLING
TO MAKE THIS A MULTINATIONAL SPENT FUEL STORAGE FACILITY
FOR THE NORDIC COUNTRIES. WE HAVE NO INKLING AS TO HOW THE

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT VIEW THIS POSSIBILITY (WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THAT IT CURRENTLY IS AWARE OF SKBF'S THINKING) OR EVEN AS TO THE LIKELIHOOD THAT IT WILL ULTIMATELY APPROVE THE FACILITY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

3. NONETHELESS, GIVEN THE DANISH PROBLEMS CITED IN REFTEL (AS WELL AS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH USG OFFICIALS ON OTHER

OCCASIONS), STORAGE OF DANISH SPENT FUEL IN A SWEDISH CENTRAL STORAGE FACILITY OFFERS AN INTRIGUING POSSIBLE SOLUTION. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE BY NO MEANS RULED OUT RETURN OF SPENT FUEL FROM DENMARK TO THE UNITED STATES AND ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY FURTHER, THE TIME WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED TO TRANSLATE OUR RECENTLY ANNOUNCED POLICY IN THIS AREA TO A TANGIBLE PROGRAM (E.G., DEVELOP AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WORK OUT ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY SPECIFICS, AND OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVALS) MAY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO GIVE A FIRM RESPONSE TO THE DANES AS QUICKLY AS THEY DESIRE. IF THE SCHEDULE NOTED ABOVE ACTUALLY COULD BE MET BY SKBF AND THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, A FINAL ANSWER FOR THE DANES ON THIS POSSIBILITY PROBABLY WOULD BE AVAILABLE SUBSTANTIALLY BEFORE WE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE OURS. THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL FACILITY IN SWEDEN, HOWEVER, MIGHT PROVIDE THE DANES WITH A READY ALTERNATIVE AND IN ANY CASE WE WOULD WISH TO HAVE A BETTER FEEL OF THE FIRMNESS OF THE
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SWEDISH PROPOSAL AND ITS POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO SOLVING THE DANISH PROBLEM BEFORE WE OURSELVES DECIDED HOW WE WOULD WISH TO HANDLE ANY DANISH APPLICATIONS THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE. FROM THE U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION VIEWPOINT, DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH A MULTINATIONAL, INTERNATIONALLY SAFEGUARDED SPENT FUEL STORAGE FACILITY IN SWEDEN WOULD BE A HIGHLY FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT.

4. IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITIES OF BOTH THE DANISH AND SWEDISH GOVERNMENTS ON THE SPENT FUEL DISPOSITION ISSUE, DEPARTMENT HAS NO REPEAT NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW, WHEN, OR WHETHER OUR INFORMATION ON SKBF'S WILLINGNESS TO MAKE THIS A MULTINATIONAL FACILITY MIGHT BE USED, BUT WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS FROM EITHER POST IN THIS REGARD. CHRISTOPHER

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